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The Urban District of Kirkham



Annual Health Report for the Year 1953



Medical Officer of Health :

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.San.E., L.I.O.B.



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HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs. M. Carr (Chairman).

Councillor R. Benson. Councillor Mrs. D. G. M. Sanderson.

Councillor E. H. Holmes. Councillor T. Ward, J.P., C.C.

Councillor R. Lavelle. Councillor J. Whiteside.

Councillor J. J. Postlewhite.

Councillor J. Lawler, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.SAN.E., L.I.O.B.

Clerk : N. SWIFT, A.C.C.S.

Annual Health Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of
the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Area (in acres) | 940 |
| Home Population | 6,482 |
| (At the 1931 census the population was 4,031, whilst in 1949 the civilian population was estimated to be 4,710. The home population in 1952 was 5,765). | |
| Number of inhabited houses at 31-12-53 | 1,391 |
| Rateable value at 31-12-53 | £32,454 |
| Amount produced by a penny rate | £ 133 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—77 births (43 males and 34 females) were registered
during the year. The birth rate of 15.1 per 1,000 compared with
a rate of 18.1 per 1,000 in 1952.

Stillbirths.—There were 2 stillbirths during the year, making
a stillbirth rate of 25 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared
with a rate of 24 in 1952.

Deaths.—58 deaths (29 males and 29 females) were regi-
stered during the year. The death rate at 12.5 per 1,000 compares
with a death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 in 1952.

Infantile Mortality.—No deaths of infants under one year of age occurred.

The infantile mortality was nil compared with a rate of 24 per 1,000 in 1952.

| | |
|--|----|
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ... | 0 |
| Maternal Mortality | 0 |
| Deaths from Tuberculosis, all ages | 0 |
| Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System | 0 |
| Deaths from Cancer | 10 |

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1953:—

| Cause of Death | M. | F. | T. |
|---|-------|--------|----|
| Infective and parasitic diseases | 0 ... | 1 ... | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 ... | 0 ... | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 3 ... | 0 ... | 3 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | 0 ... | 1 ... | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... | 4 ... | 1 ... | 5 |
| Diabetes | 1 ... | 1 ... | 2 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 3 ... | 4 ... | 7 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 2 ... | 0 ... | 2 |
| Other heart disease | 2 ... | 4 ... | 6 |
| Other circulatory disease | 1 ... | 10 ... | 11 |
| Influenza | 2 ... | 0 ... | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 1 ... | 0 ... | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 4 ... | 5 ... | 9 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 1 ... | 0 ... | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 3 ... | 1 ... | 4 |
| Suicide | 1 ... | 0 ... | 1 |
| Homicide and operations of war | 0 ... | 1 ... | 1 |
| | — | — | — |
| | 29 | 29 | 58 |
| | — | — | — |

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 smaller towns and this district for the past five years:—

| Year | England and Wales | | 160 smaller towns (25-50,000 pop.) | | Kirkham Urban District | |
|------|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | Births | Deaths | Births | Deaths | Births | Deaths |
| 1949 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 18.0 | 11.6 | 22. 8 | 12.7 |
| 1950 | 15.8 | 11.6 | 16.7 | 11.6 | 21.08 | 14.1 |
| 1951 | 15.5 | 12.5 | 16.7 | 12.5 | 14. 9 | 14.2 |
| 1952 | 15.3 | 11.3 | 15.5 | 11.2 | 18. 1 | 13.6 |
| 1953 | 15.5 | 11.4 | 15.7 | 11.3 | 15. 1 | 12.5 |

The most notable feature of the above Vital Statistics is a fall in the number of deaths of infants under one year compared with the two previous years.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Personnel.

Medical Officer of Health :

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health Borough of Lytham St. Annes, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde and Preesall, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.SAN.E., L.I.O.B.

Hospital Facilities.—For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious Diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the case of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Ambulance Service is Administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles from the Wesham Ambulance Station.

Laboratory Facilities. — Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in laboratories at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary. The latter laboratory is also used for the examination of water and milk samples.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

Venereal Disease Service. — Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.—A County Council Clinic is located in Mellor Road and sessions held, at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows :—

Monday ... a.m. Minor Ailments Clinic.

Tuesday ... p.m. Ante-Natal (alternate Tuesdays).

Thursday ... a.m. Immunisation (third Thursday in each month).

a.m. Minor Ailments.

a.m. Vaccination (third Thursday in each month).

p.m. Child Welfare Clinic.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the numbers of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1953:—

| DISEASES. | CASES NOTIFIED. | | | | | | | | | | | HOSPITAL. | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | Total Cases at all ages | Under 1 year. | 1— | 3— | 5— | 10— | 15— | 25— | 45— | 65 and over. | Age unknown. | Total Deaths. | Total Cases rem'd to Hospital. | Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District. |
| Smallpox | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Scarlet Fever | 9 | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 9 | .. |
| Diphtheria and Membranous Group | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Acute Influenzal Pneumonia . | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Puerperal Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Dysentery | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Erysipelas | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Malaria contracted abroad .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Do. In this country .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Any other diseases notifiable in district; e.g., Chickenpox .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Measles and German Measles | 177 | 4 | 33 | 50 | 81 | 4 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. |
| Whooping Cough | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Any other disease | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Food Poisoning * † | 22 | .. | .. | 2 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Totals | 212 | 4 | 34 | 53 | 92 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 0 |

*12 other cases of food poisoning not notified were ascertained on investigation.

† Includes 4 since found to be Sonne.

There was a considerable increase in the incidence of infectious diseases during the year compared with 1952, and this was, in the main, due to the number of cases of measles notified.

Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred between the 12th and 17th June, and 19th and 22nd September respectively. These outbreaks followed the ingestion of meat pies manufactured at bakeries outside this district. Sixteen cases occurred as a result of the first outbreak and fourteen as a result of the second.

The *Salmonella Morbificans Bovis* was the organism responsible for the June outbreak, and the *Salmonella Typhi* Murium for the September one. In each outbreak the causative organism was isolated from both meat pies and specimens of faeces taken from cases.

All the cases were treated at home. One secondary case was reported in the first outbreak and none in the second.

TUBERCULOSIS.

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

New Cases and Mortality During 1953.

| Age Periods | — New Cases — | | | | — Deaths — | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----|--------------|-----|------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| | Pulmon'y | | Non-Pulmon'y | | Pulmon'y | | Non-Pulmon'y | |
| 0—1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1—5 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5—10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10—15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15—20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 20—25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25—35 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 35—45 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 45—55 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 55—65 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 65 and upwards | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2 | | 1 | | 0 | | 0 | |

In 1952 there were 3 new cases notified, and no deaths reported from the disease.

In conclusion I thank the Members of the Health Committee and Officers of the Urban District Council and in particular the Sanitary Inspector and Mr. N. Swift for courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second annual report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1953.

Again there have not been any major changes in legislation during the year. Reasonable progress has been made in dealing with complaints and in gaining improvements in food handling premises. Unfortunately a large percentage of time has to be given to surveying work on district roads, street lighting, recreation grounds and new housing. The result of this is that routine inspections suffer. It is always advisable for any Inspector to carry out fairly regular routine visits to factories, shops, bakehouses and other food-preparing premises. His advice on such regular visits is almost always accepted and a gradual improvement is thus made each time without owners, etc., feeling that they are going to be faced with large expenditure every time an Inspector calls.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The following are the numbers of closets, ashpits, dustbins, etc. :—

| | |
|--|-------|
| Water Closets | 1,500 |
| Waste Water Closets | 0 |
| Pail Closets | 1 |
| Privy Closets | 0 |
| Privy Ashpits | 0 |
| Dry Ashpits | 0 |
| Dustbins | 1,500 |
| Cesspools | 0 |
| Septic Tanks | 14 |
| Houses not connected direct to sewer | 35 |
| Houses on Water Carriage System | 1,391 |
| Percentage of Closets on Water Carriage System | 99.57 |
| Percentage of Houses connected to General Sewage System | 97.48 |

One Waste Water Closet was converted to a W.C.

Sewers and Sewerage System.—The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs to tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consist of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks and 14 sludge beds. These tanks were constructed in 1941.

The main sewer in Station Road had to be excavated and repaired in two places due to collapse of pipes and whilst this sewer appears to be running well at present the Council should consider the relaying of it a section at a time, from manhole to manhole to spread the total cost over two or three years.

Rivers and Streams.—One main stream—Wrongway Brook—runs through the district, entering from the Fylde Rural District in a culvert under the railway and discharging into Carr Brook and finally to Dow Brook. This stream forms a portion of the Urban District boundary on the easterly side of the town and provides most of the natural drainage for the district.

A second stream commencing at the Bye-Pass end of Orders Lane runs down Orders Lane under Poulton Street and Mill Street in a brick culvert and discharges into Carr Brook at the north-easterly corner of the Flax Mill land.

Water Supply.—Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have available supplies from this source and all have piped supplies within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. The mains were extended to take in two new houses in Willows Lane.

Complaints were received concerning a brown discolouration in the water. This apparently was due to changing over to a new main and was no serious detriment to the supply. The matter rectified itself after a few hours.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Summary of Complaints Received.—330 complaints were received during the year, of which many were from Council Houses for repairs requiring attention. 639 visits were made to premises in connection with this work. 330 nuisances were discovered, of which 309 were abated, leaving 21 to carry forward to 1954. 70 informal notices were served during the year, whilst the number of statutory notices served after reports being made to the Committee was 12. There were no legal proceedings. In the main most complaints were dealt with after consultation with the landlord concerned. In spite of the high cost of maintenance and low rentals, property is reasonably well maintained. In most cases the tenants are reasonable and do most internal repairs themselves. It is felt that advantage will be taken to improve old property when the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill becomes law. The Council

should seriously reconsider their decision taken in regard to improvement grants available under the Housing Act, 1949. The number of defects found and remedied were as follows :—

| Defect | Private Properties | Council Properties |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Repairs to woodwork of window frames | — ... | 49 |
| Repairs to window panes | — ... | 14 |
| Window frames rehung | — ... | 1 |
| Doors repaired or rehung | 1 ... | 28 |
| Weatherboards fixed | — ... | 33 |
| Thresholds fixed | — ... | 30 |
| Door locks repaired or renewed | — ... | 18 |
| Gates repaired | — ... | 1 |
| Gates rehung and new posts fitted | — ... | 2 |
| Window frames mastic pointed | — ... | 63 |
| Door frames repaired | — ... | 1 |
| W.C. door frames repaired | — ... | 2 |
| New sink drain boards fitted | — ... | 3 |
| Woodwork of floors repaired | — ... | 7 |
| Dry-rot cured and woodwork repaired | — ... | 2 |
| Soffit boards refixed | — ... | 1 |
| Shelves repaired or renewed | — ... | 7 |
| Eaves gutters repaired | 2 ... | 44 |
| Eaves gutters renewed | 3 ... | 3 |
| Rain water pipes repaired | — ... | 5 |
| Soil pipes repaired | — ... | 1 |
| Burst water pipes repaired | 2 ... | 7 |
| New W.C. pedestals fitted | 1 ... | 5 |
| New W.C. seats fitted | 1 ... | 4 |
| W.C. floors relaid | 1 ... | 1 |
| W.C. cisterns repaired | — ... | 3 |
| New W.C. cisterns fitted | 1 ... | 1 |
| W.C. flush pipe, joints repaired | — ... | 5 |
| Sink refixed | — ... | 2 |
| W.C. door and frame rehung | 1 ... | 0 |
| Sink wastes repaired | — ... | 10 |
| Bath wastes repaired | — ... | 2 |
| W.C. basins refixed | — ... | 2 |
| Fireback boiler reset | — ... | 2 |
| Oven repaired | — ... | 1 |
| Fixtures repaired | — ... | 14 |
| "Siesta" firebars renewed | — ... | 71 |
| "Siesta" bricks renewed | — ... | 19 |
| "Sofono" grates renewed | — ... | 19 |
| "Sofono" bricks renewed | — ... | 33 |
| "Eagle Sutton" grates renewed ... | — ... | 8 |
| "Eagle Sutton" bricks renewed ... | — ... | 4 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|-----|----|
| Gas boilers repaired | — | ... | 18 |
| Gas ovens repaired | — | ... | 4 |
| Gas leaks repaired | — | ... | 4 |
| Gas fires repaired | — | ... | 5 |
| Roofs repaired and made weatherproof | 3 | ... | 16 |
| New chimney pots fitted | — | ... | 3 |
| Chimney stacks repaired | — | ... | 5 |
| Drainage repairs | — | ... | 3 |
| Wall plaster repaired | — | ... | 12 |
| Ceiling plaster repaired | — | ... | 2 |
| Ball taps repaired | — | ... | 29 |
| Taps repaired | — | ... | 7 |
| Paths reconcreted | — | ... | 1 |
| New clothes posts fixed | — | ... | 4 |
| Garden walls repaired | — | ... | 1 |
| New bins provided | 59 | ... | — |
| Bins made serviceable | 13 | ... | — |
| Smoky chimney cured | 1 | ... | — |
| Mantel shelf repaired | 1 | ... | — |
| Dangerous wall rebuilt | 1 | ... | — |

DISINFESTATIONS

Seven houses were disinfested for fleas and three for fleas and bugs. These were done following a complaint received from the School Nurse after inspection of children at school. Two of the houses were post-war Council houses. Free issues of insect powder are available to the public.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Nine houses were visited for investigation in connection with infectious diseases and instructions were given and disinfectant supplied to the householders for disinfecting their premises. There was no other demand for disinfection of premises. Library books were collected from houses where infectious diseases occurred and were disinfected before return to the Library.

SCHOOLS

The schools were inspected regularly and were satisfactory apart from minor repairs. All are supplied with water by the Fylde Water Board and all have water closets connected to the sewer. One school has an old type trough closet which it is intended to convert during next year. The Council agreed with the County Education Committee that I should act as Technical Officer for the Committee for schools in the district. This is a good scheme, as it enables small matters to be dealt with at once without having some other person responsible.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses, offensive trades, tents or sheds within the district. There is one caravan which has been there for many years.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Visits were made to the two cinemas. The attention of the management was drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of the sanitary conveniences. The defects were attended to at once.

The remainder of the drainage for new houses was supervised, tested and passed, some 38 lengths in all.

A dyke along the easterly side of the housing scheme some 97 yards in length was excavated, piped with porous tile and filled in.

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received. There are seven factory chimneys in the town.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council carried out all refuse collection and disposal. A 7 cubic yard Dennis Refuse Lorry was engaged regularly on the work and one 7 cubic yard Bedford Lorry collected salvage on one day each week. Collections were on the average every eight days. A Ferguson tractor with bucket loader, trailer, cultivator and bulldozer blade was purchased and will be used to replace the tip man (due to retire early in 1954) and Dennis Lorry. This has proved to be a most useful item of equipment. In fact its uses are so great and labour-saving that it is recommended that consideration be given to the purchase of a second tractor and trailer to use for refuse collection, as the amount of refuse to be moved is increasing and the Bedford Lorry now being used full time, is working to its capacity. It should be the aim that bins are emptied once a week, the ideal being that the same bins are emptied on the same day each week. If this can be achieved it invariably shows an increase in salvageable materials, particularly paper.

The average number of daily loads was $3\frac{1}{2}$, and the approximate weight of refuse removed was 1,800 tons. The R.A.F. Camp, Kirkham, is cleared twice weekly, the additional collection being paid for.

A bin carrier was purchased and has proved a useful piece of equipment. It will be noted previously in this report that many new bins were supplied in the year. The use of old and dilapidated

bins slows down collection and is dangerous for the men. Each man is issued with two pairs of overalls per annum, as protective clothing and gloves are available as required.

Disposal has again been carried out at Carr Lane Tip, reclaiming low-lying land. Some improvement has been made to the tip. A bulldozer was hired and this levelled off the surface, leaving approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres ready for cultivation. Since the tipping has been improved less trouble has occurred with the wagons going on and off. Most of the top and side dressing used comprises ashes from the local mills and hospital.

The collection of salvage was maintained and the bonus scheme for the men continued. The total income during the year was £1,201, being £845 from the sale of salvage and £356 from the R.A.F. for an extra weekly collection. The drop in salvage receipts as compared with last year is accounted for by a reduction in prices paid to the Council for rags and paper. The tonnage salvaged was as follows :—

| | T. | C. | Q. | L. |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|
| Waste paper (all grades) | 66 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Rags | 16 | 0 | 2 | 10 |
| Food tins | 34 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Light iron | 3 | 12 | 3 | 0 |
| Heavy cast iron | 7 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Mixed metals | | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| | 128 | 5 | 3 | 21 |

The waste paper was despatched to Thames Board Mills Ltd. During the year a maximum amount to be sent was stipulated and had not to be exceeded. This was due to a glut of waste paper. Fortunately the position improved towards the year end.

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was £2,718, equivalent to a $1/8\frac{1}{2}$ rate. The estimated cost per ton works out at 34/4 against a national average of 42/4. The approximate cost per 1,000 houses was £1,953, which is higher than the average figure of £1,577 for towns under 30,000 population. This figure, however, is difficult to assess in Kirkham as the number of dwellings is low in comparison to the total refuse collected, due to the R.A.F. Camp not being included in the number of dwellings, although cleared twice weekly. The approximate cost per 1,000 head of population was £419 against the average figure of £469 for towns under 30,000 population.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Visits were made to premises where food stuffs are handled or sold. Five notices were served and were complied with. Work completed was as follows:—

| | |
|--|---|
| To repair shop wall, internally | 1 |
| To provide geysers | 4 |
| To provide soap and towels | 4 |
| To underdraw shop ceilings | 2 |
| To repaint walls and ceilings | 3 |
| To provide "Wash Your Hands" notices | 3 |
| To cleanse W.C. | 1 |
| To redecorate preparation room | 1 |

The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction:—

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 tins Pork Luncheon Meat. | 1 tin Cocoa. |
| 5 tins Grapes. | 1 tin Herrings. |
| 46 tins Plums. | 27 tins Cherries. |
| 7 tins Milk. | 1 tin Fruit Salad. |
| 1 tin Grapefruit. | 1 tin Fruit Salts |
| 3 jars Pickled Cabbage. | 2 tins Pears. |
| 4 tins Oranges. | 1 tin Pilchards. |
| 7 tins Tomatoes. | 1 Sandwich Spread. |
| 5 tins Apple Puree. | 2 tins Pineapple. |
| 8 tins Shrimps. | 2 tins Beans. |
| 1 tin Sardines. | 1 tin Peas. |
| 2 tins Corned Beef. | 1 tin Crayfish. |
| 1 tin Veal. | 1 tin Carrots. |
| 9 tins Tongue. | 7 tins Crab Paste. |
| 3 tins Ham. | |

Also the following fresh foods:—

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 50lbs. Cooked Pork. | 10½lbs. Bacon. |
| 12 stone Herrings. | 54½lbs. Prunes. |
| 17½lbs. Butter. | |

There is no slaughtering of animals for food in the district, all killing being done at St. Annes Abattoir.

Milk Supply and Distribution.—There is one large dairy and pasteurising plant in the town supplying milk to the surrounding

districts. The supervision of this plant is done by the Lancashire County Council. The number of registered dealers is as follows :

| | |
|--|----|
| Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk | 10 |
| Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, Farm Bottled ... | 6 |
| Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, Pasteurised ... | 8 |
| Licensed to sell Sterilised Milk | 0 |
| Licensed to sell Accredited Milk | 1 |

There are three raw milk dealers. Almost all the milk supply is bottled. No complaints in regard to the milk supply were received.

Ice Cream.—Two premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, one of which was registered for the first time during the year. These have been inspected and always found to be well run and maintained. Twenty-four dealers are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. No complaints were received in regard to ice cream. The general standard of vehicles and equipment is high.

Made-up Foods, Potted Meats, etc.—Three premises are registered to manufacture made-up meat products. Improvements are still being made to these premises. A good standard of cleanliness was maintained.

Food Sampling by the County Council.—Seventy-two samples were taken by County Inspectors during the year, comprising :—

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 57 Milk. | 1 Tea. |
| 1 Cake. | 1 Raspberry Roll. |
| 3 Meat Paste. | 1 Fruit Pie. |
| 1 Pineapple, canned. | 1 Beef Suet and Flour. |
| 1 Pears, canned. | 1 Camphorated Oil. |
| 1 Steak Pudding. | 1 Borax. |
| 1 Meat Pudding. | 1 Sweets. |

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

| Sample | Result of Analysis. | Action taken |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1 informal milk. | Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.1 per cent. of extraneous water. | Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained. |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 1.6 per cent fat. | Vendor notified. |

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Forty-eight visits were made in connection with the Shops Acts.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

| Premises | Number of | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| Factories with Mechanical power ... | 14 | 0 | — |
| Factories without Mechanical power | — | — | — |
| Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) | — | — | — |
| Total | 14 | 0 | 0 |

DEFECTS FOUND.

| PARTICULARS. | Number of Defects. | | | Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted |
|--|--------------------|----------|----------------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred by H.M. Inspector | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) . | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7):— | | | | |
| Insufficient | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Unsuitable or defective | — | — | — | — |
| Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — |
| Other Offences | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 3 | 3 | — | — |

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two premises are registered under the above Act. Four inspections were made to them during the year. No samples were taken.

RODENT CONTROL

Seventeen complaints of rodent infestation were received. These were investigated and treated by the Rodent Operator. This man has had Ministry training in modern methods and has had much success. The standard Ministry methods are used. The sewers were treated twice and 20 takes recorded. The amount of sewer infestation appears to be small.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Sixteen premises are licensed to store petroleum. In every case the petroleum is stored in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 20,580 gallons. No notices were served under these Acts.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books 1,391

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority 29

(b) By other bodies or persons 8

Housing Conditions. — The houses generally are small to medium sized houses of both parlour and non-parlour type. Although there is a large percentage of old property, the internal condition of the houses is good. Many old houses of poor external appearance are well kept, and in the main tenants show great pride in their houses.

There are still over 200 applicants for Council houses, approximately half being tenants and half lodgers. Of these, some 50 reside outside the area.

A scheme of 29 houses was completed during the year, and work will start early in 1954 on another 41.

Housing is at last showing some improvement, and the unnatural prices are falling slightly. The Council have given every opportunity to prospective buyers by operating the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

There are no known cases of legal overcrowding, but there are several difficult cases where sleeping accommodation is overcrowded. This is being taken into consideration when applicants are considered for new houses.

No houses were demolished during the year.

STAFF

Thanks are hereby expressed to the efficient service rendered by Mr. N. Swift, the Clerk in the Department, and for the excellent and willing co-operation from other members of the staff and workmen.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. RIDDIOUGH.

